



# Braun Station West NEWSLETTER

Braun Station West  
Community Improvement Association  
8630 Tezel Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78254

## December - January 2012

Meetings of the Braun Station West Board of Directors are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Tezel Clubhouse. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### President's Corner

*by Roger Plasse*

I hope the newsletter finds you in good health and busy getting ready for the holidays. We have just completed a top to bottom review of our covenants, by-laws and policies to bring them more in line with the new State Legislative changes effective January 1, 2012. Thanks to Al Pohovich and Ana Thornton along with our attorney we are now in compliance. This is the first extensive review of HOA policies on the part of the state in 10 years. Read Al's article (page 6) for more specific information.

The holiday season brings a lot of joy to families with visits, gift exchanges and mom's favorite dishes. However, occasionally disaster strikes: an overloaded circuit, a forgotten burning candle, an overcooked meal resulting in a kitchen fire, to name a few. Be careful out there.

Did you hear about the early October snowstorm in the Northeast? Heavy, wet snow downed power lines and for many resulted in no electricity for over a week. Are you prepared if some sort of disaster were to strike our area? Check out Neal Nye's article (page 13). He's got some great advice.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2012. We will elect our board of officers, as well as new board members. Speaking of board members, three board positions are up for election every year. Is it time for you to offer your time and talent? We have our usual monthly meetings and an occasional committee meeting. Remember, Braun Station West is an outstanding place to live. To keep it that way, think about stepping up to the plate and volunteering your services.

Remember to sign up for our e-blast (page 3). Happy Holidays and again, be careful out there!

P.S. Tony is like a UPS driver up north. As winter approaches, they go from wearing shorts to wearing long pants. Can you guess what day you'll see him in long pants?

Manager	Tony LaFrenier
Clerk	Sherry Heffner
Office	680-3009
Fax	521-2728
Brigadoon Pool	684-7604
Office Hours	Mon-Fri 9:30-6:00 Sat/Sun Closed

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Roger Plasse
Vice President	Al Pohovich
Treasurer	Fred Aldrich
Secretary	Mary Anne Kramer Terry Buchanan Ana Thornton Linda Cunningham Ori Villarreal Neal Nye

**FREE NOTARY SERVICE  
AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS  
(12 per household per year)**

**SMALL ANIMAL TRAPS  
We have three to loan**

### FAXING SERVICE

#### Sending

**Long Distance:**  
\$1.00 each page  
**Local:**  
\$.50 per page

#### Receiving

\$ .50 per page

#### COPIES

\$ .10 per page

### USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE DISPATCHER 207-7273  
(Non-emergency Assistance)

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO 3-1-1  
(Pot Holes, Street Signals Out, Signs  
Knocked Over, Information etc. )

UTILITY LINE LOCATOR 8-1-1  
(Natural Gas & Electric Lines)

#### **BSW E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

bswcia@sbcglobal.net

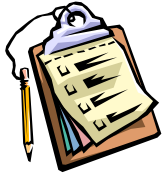
#### **BSW WEB SITE:**

www.braunstationwest.com

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## MANAGER'S CLIPBOARD

by Tony LaFrenier

**BOARD POSITIONS:** If anyone is interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors in January, please call or stop by the office. Help make a difference in your neighborhood!

**BULKY GOODS COLLECTION:** The bulky goods collection for our area is scheduled for January (according to the City of San Antonio web site).

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Every homeowner has to do their share to keep the neighborhood looking good. The Braun Station West Community Improvement Association is really **you** and the other 1153 property owners in the neighborhood.

Everyone Can Help:

- Keep your yards mowed and trimmed
- Put your boats and trailers back in storage after every use
- Don't use your driveway or front and sides of your house for storage areas

With the weather starting to cool off, it's a good time to tackle some of the following:

- Fence repair / replacement
- Mailbox repair / replacement
- Garage door repair / replacement

Let's all do our share to keep Braun Station West a highly desirable place to live!

<Playworks>



## LIFEGUARDS

Yes, the pools are closed for the season, but before you know it they will be open once again. During the March timeframe we will be hiring many new lifeguards for the season. It is never too early to stop by and talk to me about becoming a lifeguard. Get your certifications early. Parents, there are not too many jobs for teenagers as young as 15 years old. Please call or stop by the office if you are interested in becoming a lifeguard for the 2012 pool season. This is probably one of the most flexible and enjoyable summer jobs that you can get.



## BRAUN STATION CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come join the holiday fun! The Children's Christmas Party, hosted by the Braun Station Playgroup, is open to all residents of Braun Station West and Braun Station East. As usual, Santa will be the highlight of the party! Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 4th, 3:30-5:30 P.M. at the Braun Station West Clubhouse. Remember to bring your camera!

## TENNIS COURTS

**Help Us Out.....When you are finished playing!!**

- ✓ Lock The Gate
- ✓ Turn Off The Lights

**Take that extra five seconds to lock the gate and turn off the lights. Thank You!**



# BRAUN STATION WEST E-BLASTS!

Want to know what's going on in the neighborhood? Here's a way to sign up for special e-mails from the BSW office and/or Board Members. Previously we have contacted only Block Captains, hoping they will get the word out to their neighbors, but now you can be a direct link for all outgoing messages. We will not bombard you with trivial concerns, but for example, after a recent rash of break-ins around this corner of San Antonio, we felt it would be good for everyone to be extra vigilant, but had only our newsletter as a tool to reach everyone. Sending E-blasts will be extremely more timely.

**It's very simple to sign-up for e-blasts. Here's how:**

1. Go on-line to [www.braunstationwest.com](http://www.braunstationwest.com).
2. Fill in your e-mail address inside the News Blast box on the front page.
3. When you receive a confirmation e-mail, just click on the [confirmation link](#).

You're done! Then you will begin receiving BSW notices of important news. **Your e-mail address will not be shared with anyone!** And, you may unsubscribe from the list at any time.

Let your neighbors know about this important new service. Just one more way we are striving to make Braun Station West "A great place to live."

## 11TH ANNUAL PENGUIN PLUNGE



**Saturday, January 7th  
2:00 P.M.**

*Come join in the fun and plunge yourself into the freezing water at the Tezel Pool. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Participants will receive an official certificate. Call the office and register!!*

*Note: If you are under 18 years of age, and your parents are not with you, you must have a permission slip signed by your parent or legal guardian.*

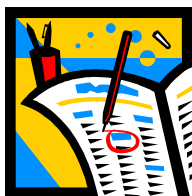
## CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Rental fee is \$100.00 for five hours (the five hours includes your set-up and clean-up time). Additional hours are \$15.00 per hour. Clubhouse capacity is 80. Full kitchen amenities. To reserve the clubhouse, call the office at 680-3009.

## Playgroup Cookbooks



Searching for a simple, inexpensive gift? How about one of the Playgroup cookbooks? They're a great present and a bargain at just \$5 each. The cookbooks are a collection of Playgroup members' and friends' favorite recipes, so you know they're easy and delicious. Stop by the office to pick up one or two... or three!



## ADVERTISE WITH US!

The next Braun Station West newsletter will be the February - March issue. If you would like to place an advertisement, submit it by January 10th. Call 680-3009 for rates or other information. Reach over 1150 homes!!!



# BRAUN STATION WEST ANNUAL MEETING



Dear Braun Station West Homeowners:

The Annual Meeting of the Braun Station West Community Improvement Association will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 in the Braun Station Elementary School cafeteria. There will be a Social starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

During the Annual meeting, 2011 activities will be reviewed, and the proposed 2012 assessment will be established. Elections will be held to select directors for three expiring Board terms and to select the Officers for the Board of Directors. Nominations for these positions will be presented by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these positions may also be made from the floor.

Your attendance is important. However, if you are unable to attend, you may appoint a proxy to vote for you. To do so, please sign the form at the bottom of this letter and either return it to the BSW office or have your proxy present it at the meeting. Please remember that this is **YOUR** Association and your participation in the voting process is vital. The members of the Board of Directors look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

**Roger Plasse**  
**Braun Station West President**

-----Cut Along Dashed Line-----

## **PROXY-2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

Braun Station West Community Improvement Association, Inc.

I (we) the undersigned Class A member(s) of the Braun Station West Community Improvement Association, Inc., pursuant to Section 5, Article III of the By-Laws of our Corporation, do hereby constitute and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as attorney and agent for the undersigned in my (our) name, place, and stead at the meeting of the members to be held January 18, 2012 to vote as my (our) proxy in election of directors for the Corporation, election of officers of the Corporation, establishment of the year 2012 assessment, and any other authorized business that may be voted upon. **Note:** Non-designated proxy ballots will be equally divided among directors of the board who are present at the meeting.

This proxy shall be revocable at the will of the undersigned by notifying the Secretary of the Corporation in writing at or prior to the meeting.

Executed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BSW Homeowner's Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed BSW Homeowner's Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Braun Station West Property Address

## ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS AT A GLANCE

- **Invoices will be mailed out after the January Annual Meeting**  
(Assessment amount is set at the Annual Meeting, January 18th. Contact the office if you have not received an invoice by February 10th.)
- **Payment is due by March 1, 2012**

The best way to pay the assessment is to drop a check in the mail. Assessments can also be paid in person during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9:30 AM - 6 PM).

Cash can be accepted for payment only during normal business hours (a receipt of cash payment will be issued by the office staff). Cash payments can only be accepted by the BSW Manager or Clerk. Seasonal workers such as lifeguards can't accept cash payments for assessments.

We also have a secure drop slot in our door where payments can be dropped off after normal business hours. Please, **NO CASH** in the drop slot.



## BSW Christmas Decorations Contest

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's a holly, jolly Christmas! It's the best time of the year . . . there'll be snow and mistletoe, and oops! Maybe not snow in San Antonio, but we can count on lots of homes in BSW with Christmas lights shining through the night. If you're planning on putting up lights with our Annual Christmas Decorations Contest in mind this season, remember, we made some changes last year. Now, you must fill out this form to be considered! It must be returned to the office (in person, by mail @ 8630 Tezel Road, SATX 78254, or by fax @ 521-2728) by noon on Thursday, December 8th. Judging will take place the week of December 12th through 16th.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check *all* categories for which you wish to be considered:

Best Overall

Best Street

Best Lights

Best Door

Best Theme

# **COVENANTS AND BY-LAWS**

*by Al Pohovich, BSW Vice President*

The Texas Legislature has passed numerous laws, and changes to laws, affecting homeowner associations and therefore owners. While these laws and changes do not become effective until January 1, 2012, your Board of Directors has been actively working with the BSWCIA attorney to prepare necessary documents for filing in the Deed Records of Bexar County.

Two of the many changes are disclosed here for your advance information; first, our covenants, Item 33 - Amendment to Deed Restrictions, provides for owners to be able to amend the restrictions by not less than seventy-five per cent (75%) of lot owners. The requirement for 75% will be superceded on January 1 to only require sixty-seven per cent (67%) of lot owners.

The second of these changes relates to our by-laws, specifically Article V, Section 2, concerning election to the Board of Directors. All voting must now be by signed ballot. Therefore, at the Annual Meeting this January, we will ask owners to incorporate this requirement by amending the pertinent portion of Section 2. The first line currently reads: "Section 2. Election. Election to the Board of Directors shall be by secret written ballot." By substituting "signed" for "secret" this amendment will bring BSW into compliance and would read: "Section 2. Election. Election to the Board of Directors shall be by signed written ballot." The balance of Section 2 remains as is currently published.



## **ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS**

*by Al Pohovich, BSW Vice President*

Although we do not look forward to receiving our notices each January, that once a year billing will be arriving soon. It may ease the pain a little to recall that the assessment is used for a variety of purposes which include recreation, health, safety and welfare of BSW residents as well as for the improvement and maintenance of the common areas.

There is quite a list of amenities that are supported through this assessment, such as two wonderful swimming pools, pool supplies, providing lifeguards to protect swimmers, a soccer field, tennis and basketball courts, a park, playgrounds, picnic areas, a beautiful clubhouse, community events, a security patrol to help us be a little safer and discourage graffiti, grass mowing, brush removal and tree trimming. There are also more mundane expenses borne like utilities for these venues, insurance, office supplies, telephone, legal expenses and payroll among others.

That's a lot of bang for our bucks, as the saying goes, for about \$16 a month. So when that dreaded notice arrives in your mailbox, please make every effort to mail or bring your check to Tony or Sherry by March 1 and it will ease bookkeeping and keep all of our vendors very happy. Thank you.



## ACRYLIC PAINTING CLASS & FREE DEMO SESSION



Acrylic paints bridge the gap between oil paints and watercolor, as they have the characteristics of both. After learning to mix colors and exploring how the paint behaves, you will begin your first masterpiece on canvas. As a beginning painter, you will feel right at home in this supportive atmosphere. A supply list is available at registration. Going on vacation? Make-up classes allowed. Cost is \$60 per person. Contact Art Instructor Juanita Garza for registration/information. (See contact information below.) Se habla Espanol. Class meets four times during the month at the Braun Station West clubhouse, once a week for 3 hours, 9:30am-12:30 noon on Thursdays. Students currently range in age from 21 to 85.

Interested but not sure this is for you? Come by and visit our group in action any Thursday morning, and see what delightful works of art are being created! Or, attend a **FREE no-obligation painting demo class** at NISD Adult & Community Ed Program (Bandera & Grissom Rds.) on January 31, 12-1:30 or 6:30-8:00pm or February 1, 9-10:30am. Call to reserve your seat. 210-681-6198 or email: [riggalos@aol.com](mailto:riggalos@aol.com). "Be glad you did instead of wish you had."

### BSW WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH

*Want to get out of the house?  
Want to meet new friends?  
Want to try different restaurants?*

*Then this is the group for you!*

*We meet once a month, usually  
on Wednesdays.*

*Whether you're new to the  
neighborhood or a long time  
resident, come join us!*

*If interested, call Jill Farmer at  
684-8626.*



<FamilyEndeavors>

**NEW AD**



# EARLY WINTER GARDENING CHORES

by Joe and Susan Noonan, Bexar County Master Gardeners  
(Braun Station West Residents)



Long-range weather forecasts predict that the drought will continue into 2012. Now is the time to make spring plans on how you want to adapt your yard to the conditions we face.

Remember that a dead or dying yard detracts from the neighborhood and reduces the value of your home. There are many very attractive ground covers, Texas Superstars, and hardscapes to consider to replace your drought-stricken turf. Keep in mind also that we may have even less water for our landscapes because of restrictions.

## COLOR

--It's winter-annual time. Select from pansies, spring bulbs, flowering kale, dianthus, calendula, viola, Johnny jump-ups, alyssum and snapdragons. Petunias do well here in the winter as long as you protect them from heavy freezes.

--Be careful not to over water color plants during the winter. Check the soil with your finger. If it is dry down to about one inch, water carefully by hand. Keep your cool weather bedding plants well fertilized with a soluble fertilizer.

--Protect your color annuals from slugs and snails with labeled baits or beer traps. Plastic cups sunk in the ground and ½ filled with beer attract and drown slugs and snails.

--Most container plants react to the season by reducing growth rates. Cut back on the water and fertilizer until next spring.

--After a freeze, you can cut lantana, mallow hibiscus, esperanza and other cold sensitive plants to the ground.

## SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS

--It's OK to plant trees and shrubs in December...even bare-root trees. They will have time to get their roots out before summer. Don't forget to water them, however... once per week if it doesn't rain.

--December/January are good months to prune oak trees. Even in winter, however, the wound should be painted immediately after pruning. The trees are most susceptible to infection for 2-3 days after pruning. You can apply plain oil' latex paint on all oak cuts. Prune out dead, damaged or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Avoid topping or dehorning. It's a good idea to clean pruning tools with a bleach solution before and after you trim you plants to help prevent the spread of diseases or parasites.

## TURF GRASS

--Cut way back on the water. Water the lawn only every 2-3 weeks with ½ inch of water if we don't get rain. If it rains at least an inch, don't water for another 3 weeks. Always follow SAWs water restrictions for watering days and times.

--January is a good time to aerate your grass with a plug cutter and top dress with a ½ inch layer of compost.

--Don't fertilize or use weed and feed products now. If there is weed growth, mow every 3-4 weeks.

--Gradually build up low spots in the lawn with ½ to 1 inch of compost or top-dressing. Be sure the leaves of the grass stick through the compost so as not to smother the grass.

Adapted from Tom Harris, PH.D., 52 Weeks of Gardening Series, [www.thehillcountrygardener.com](http://www.thehillcountrygardener.com).



## **BSW WOMEN'S CLUB** **Enjoys Fall Activities**

*by Barbara Robeau*

The BSW Women's Club's latest two events were the monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 11, and the Barbeque/Bingo Bash on Sunday, November 6.

The October 11 meeting was primarily an educational activity concerning neighborhood history, but first Brenda Talley, president, conducted a short business meeting, beginning with discussion of plans for the Barbeque/Bingo Bash. Next on the agenda was planning for the club's yearly judging of neighborhood outdoor Christmas lights and decorations. Then Susan Noonan, member and master gardener, gave a fall gardening report, and Cindy Morawski announced schedules for the Day Trippers Club and the Book club, two groups that she has initiated. Hostesses for the evening were Sheryl Babiak, Deanie Bluschke, and Sherry Heffner.

Club programs chairperson Betty Burson planned and directed the activity on neighborhood history. In small groups, members reviewed and outlined the history of early settlers after whom neighborhood streets were named. Each group chose a reporter to share the group's information with the entire club. Donna Hogan reported on HUEBNER, Gayle Venticinque on GUILBEAU, Sheryl Babiak on TEZEL, Brenda Talley on BRAUN, and Marilyn Lott on BABCOCK. Club members learned about contributions to San Antonio (and to France, whose wine industry was saved by Texas grapevine cuttings sent by Francois Guilbeau) by early Texas settlers from Germany, Austria, and France.

On Sunday, November 6, the Barbeque/Bingo Bash took place at the Tezel Clubhouse. The proceeds from this fundraiser enable the club to award a \$500 college scholarship to a BSW high school senior. Beginning at noon, Robert, Nancy, and Mike Coronado served their now famous barbeque. The Bingo games, beginning at 6:30 P.M., were conducted by callers Betty Burson and Barbara Robeau.

Winners of the 13 games are a follows:

Games 1 & 6: Esmerelda Wilkinson

Game 2: Liz Gutierrez

Game 3: Bob Babiak and Jacob Gonzales

Games 4, 9, & 13: Jacob Gonzales

Game 5: Rose Hernandez

Game 7: Floyd Lott

Game 8: Grace Zamponi

Game 10: Kim Johnson

Game 11: Len Laepple

Game 12: Arline Laepple

Marilyn Lott and Brenda Talley took tickets and sold desserts and beverages. The Women's Club wishes to thank all who supported the event.

The Women's Club's two remaining meetings of 2011 are November 8 and December 13. The November meeting will feature the construction of felt and net Christmas stocking for donation to a local nursing home. The December meeting traditionally is the club's Christmas party, a cookie and gift exchange. Also club members decorate the Christmas tree in the Tezel Clubhouse in late November.

The Women's Club invites new members to join in the fun. Members have the opportunity to make new female friends and contribute to the community. We meet at the Tezel Clubhouse at 7 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month, September through April. The May meeting is an end-of-season "happy hour" at a local restaurant. Dues are \$20.00 per year. For more information women interested in joining can phone Brenda Talley at 520-7401 or Barbara Robeau at 520-2861.

# GREETINGS GALORE

Have you ever wanted to give someone special a handmade card, but didn't know where to begin?  
Well, this is it!

Our stamp camps are designed to jump start your card-making creativity.

Please plan to join us at the Tezel Clubhouse for a fun-filled evening of card-making. We will use rubber stamps, colorful inks, pretty papers, ribbons, buttons, and more, to create a variety of adorable cards. A different technique will be taught each month.

December 15 (7 P.M.) - Stocking Stuffers  
January 19 (7 P.M.) - Cupid Cuties

If you are interested in attending, contact Brenda Talley (520-7401)

## Welcome to Braun Station West!



Kyle S. Lewis  
8623 Waldon Heights



Tausch Ventures  
7726 Crooked Brook



Billy Bittinger & Jaqueline Faivre  
8514 Queen Heights



Ann Catron  
8610 Waldon Heights



Ray & Laura Rendon  
8918 Drayton Heights



## BUNCO, ANYONE?

Are you interested in playing Bunco? We play a simple version of Bunco which allows for beginners or for seasoned players to jump right in and enjoy our group. We have use of the Tezel Clubhouse for our once monthly gatherings. If you are interested in becoming a full-time player or you just want to be a substitute, please let me know. Remember, this is a great opportunity to meet some of your neighbors! For more information, please call **Susan Chambers** at **681-5725**.

## BSW Web Site [www.braunstationwest.com](http://www.braunstationwest.com)

- Draft copies of Board Meeting minutes
- Newsletters
- Covenants / By-Laws
- ACC Form (Building Improvement Form)
- Clubhouse / Pool Lease Information
- Contact Information / Useful Links
- Pictures of Facilities & Community Events
- Feedback Section



## BRAUN STATION WEST REAL ESTATE NEWS

by Nancy Muldoon, SRES, GRI, Realtor - [MoveUpSA.com](http://MoveUpSA.com)

### Pending Sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	DOM	List Price Sq. Ft.	List Price
Brigadoon	1301	52	\$79.55	\$103,500
Creek Trail	1462	98	\$93.70	\$137,000
Goodwick Hts.	2247	45	\$111.03	\$249,000

### Properties Sold

Address	Sq. Ft.	DOM	Sold Price Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
Waldon Hts.	2233	64	\$87.28	\$198,000
Waldon Hts.	2778	52	\$85.99	\$235,000
Drayton Hts.	3438	97	\$86.09	\$289,000

### Active Listings

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price Sq. Ft.	DOM	List Price
Wimbledon	1700	\$41.17	3	\$70,000
Colchester	1320	\$96.21	70	\$127,000
Woburn	1646	\$82.01	224	\$135,000
Donegal	1895	\$81.79	1	\$155,000
Beowulf	1528	\$107.00	69	\$163,500
Drayton Hts.	2493	\$87.84	104	\$219,000
Hetton Hts.	2753	\$83.50	16	\$229,900
Waldon Hts.	2852	\$80.64	86	\$229,995
Prince Hts.	3284	\$81.91	146	\$269,000
Boutry Hts.	3231	\$85.11	73	\$275,000



## TENNIS LESSONS

Braun Station West resident Joe Martinez is available to teach Tennis Lessons. If you are interested, you can contact him at 326-8135.

<Nancy Muldoon>  
(Keller Williams)

## Braun Station West Women's Club Scholarship



The BSW Women's Club is once again generously offering a \$500 scholarship. All college-bound graduating seniors who reside in Braun Station West are urged to apply. Applications will be available at the BSW office on Tezel Road starting December 1, 2011, and completed applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, March 1, 2012. Top applicants will be interviewed, and the money awarded will be paid to the chosen student's college of enrollment towards tuition.

<On A Budget>

<Mowin' Moe's>



**Tom's Landscaping  
Specializing in  
Tree Service**

**Trimming  
Removal      Privacy Fencing  
De-Mossing    Free Estimates**

**509-0685**

**413-0144**

<Neil Cummings>

## ***BSW Book Club***

Come join us for a walk on the literary wild side! **READING** will help your imagination soar. Book discussions are lively, sometimes rowdy, and fun. BSW Book Club meets every third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse, often preceded by an optional dining out (usually lunch). Bring your book and a willingness to participate. See you there.

Just one book left on our [2011 Book List](#):



*December: "Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall & Denver Moore*

We will be submitting our suggestions for the 2012 reading list at our December meeting, so don't forget to bring those with you if you are planning on attending.

If you need further information (including what the "restaurant of the month" is), please contact me, Cindy Morawski, 522-0706 or [cski02@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cski02@sbcglobal.net).

## ARE YOU PREPARED?

*by Neal Nye, BSW Board Member and Retired San Antonio Fireman*

The telephone rings and when you answer it, there's a recorded message. The message is from the San Antonio Police Department informing you that a Mandatory Evacuation has been ordered for Braun Station West due to a chemical spill on 1604!

Would you be able to get two or three items and leave your home knowing you had prepared as well as you could? If the answer to the question is **NO**, you need to start preparing **NOW!**

Let's start with important documents: the deed to your house, marriage license, insurance policies and any other papers that you consider valuable. A small file box on the shelf in the closet is not adequate protection for such documents. During my career in the SAFD I could not believe how many people stored their documents in such a manner.

What about other valuables? The jewelry you seldom wear, heirloom jewelry left to you by your grandparents, and coin collections. Not only can these items be destroyed by a fire, they will be prime targets for looters.

The police department will try to secure the subdivision; but with as many green area access points, it will be impossible for 100% security! There will be looting and they will be looking for items they can conceal and carry easily.

Consider buying a fire resistant safe rated to withstand 1500 to 1700 degrees F for 30 to 45 minutes. Safes can be purchased at reasonable prices. Always place your valuables on the bottom of your safe as it is the coolest place throughout a fire. A safe bolted to the floor won't be bothered by looters or burglars.

Another alternative is to store your valuables offsite in a safety deposit box. Offsite storage can be an inconvenience, but not nearly as inconvenient as having to replace necessary documents and losing grandmother's pearls.

Next newsletter we will start to discuss those two or three items mentioned earlier that you will need to take with you.



## BRAUN STATION PLAYGROUP

Come play with us! The Braun Station Playgroup is a fun way for you to meet other Moms & Dads and for your children to play with other kids. The playgroup offers regular play dates in the park and other fun places (call for times and locations). We also host the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Christmas Party.

For those who want to learn about playdates, things to do around town, and a way to communicate with each other, check out the playgroup blog, produced by Heather Davila. It's at <http://BraunStationPlaygroup.blogspot.com>. But don't worry... for those who don't want to venture out into the blogworld, Heather will still e-mail playdates for the month. Hey Parents & Babysitters out there! The Braun Station Playgroup is looking for some fun-filled individuals to add to our babysitter list. If you are a parent with a great sitter, we would love your recommendation. If you are a teen looking for some extra spending money, are responsible, and good with kids, send me your info and we will add you to the Braun Station Babysitter List! Contact Heather Davila at [heather@davila.cc](mailto:heather@davila.cc) or 210-379-3025.

## Planning A Home Improvement Project?



Thinking about a project to modify your house; install a deck, shed, patio, fence, or pool? Don't forget to submit the proper paperwork (available at the office or by fax) for approval before you start. The ACC form is also available on our web site. The process is simple and will save time and trouble for everyone!

**EDITORIAL POLICY:** We welcome newsletter submissions of interest to BSW residents. News from area schools, churches, scout troops, civic groups, and other nonprofit community organizations will be run on a space available basis. No partisan political material. Submissions must be in writing and contain the writer's name and phone number. We reserve the right to edit or reject any submission. Viewpoints expressed do not necessarily represent those of the BSWCIA. Maximum article length will be one page. Deadline for article submission is 6 P.M. on the 10th of each odd numbered month. If the 10th falls on a weekend, the deadline is the preceding Friday by 6 P.M.

<Heaven's Best>

<Four Seasons>

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**ADVERTISING INFORMATION:** Line ads: \$7.00 per issue for up to 3 lines; \$10.00 for four lines. Call for rates on business card and larger ads. Payment must accompany all ads. Discounts for three or six issue contracts with prepayment. Contact the BSW office to place your ad; deadline is 6 p.m. on the 10th of each odd numbered month. All ads are subject to editing or rejection, and BSW is not responsible for errors in original copy. Business card size ads and larger will receive a complimentary newsletter for issues in which they advertise. For our errors, BSW liability is limited to running one (1) corrected ad. **Neither the BSWCIA, its Board of Directors, nor its employees endorse any product or service advertised in this publication.** Ads will be accepted on a first come, space available basis.

**MAIDS OF GOLD...** Residential, commercial, special occasions, and customized cleaning. 10% off regular cleaning for Braun Station residents. Call **Kim** at **523-2209**. (09/12)

**PERSONAL COMPUTER SERVICE...** PC Upgrade, Repair, Installation Networking, Test, New Systems. On-site Service Available. Home or Office. Contact Versatech Systems at **520-0653** for free estimate. Internet address: <http://www.versatech-sys.com>. 10% discount for labor services. (07/12)

**PAINTING IS FOR EVERYONE...** Meet new friends, make time for yourself, develop a new skill. Acrylic painting, Mondays, January 16 through February 20, 6:30-9:30pm or March 19 through April 23, 6:30-9:30pm; six weeks for \$88. Location: Jewish Community Center, 12500 NW Military Dr. Website: [www.JCCSanAntonio.org](http://www.JCCSanAntonio.org) or phone 302-6969 for registration. Classes also at NISD Adult Community Education: Tuesdays, January 31 through March 6, noon-3pm or January 31 through March 6, 6:30-9:30pm or Wednesdays, February 1 through March 7, 9am-noon; six weeks for \$85. See Acrylic Painting article on page 7 for additional information. Contact Juanita Garza @ 681-6198. (03/12)

**OLGA'S CLEANING...** From ceiling fans to base boards, home, offices, and make ready's. Honest, Dependable. Reasonable rates. Call for free estimate. **288-9984** (cell). (07/12)

**THE PAMPERED CHEF...** Exciting tools that make cooking quick, easy and fun. Earn free and discounted products while having an enjoyable gathering with friends. *Career Opportunities* - Wedding Registry - Call **Gloria Cook**, 684-9038. Visit our *OUTLET* on [www.pamperedchef.biz/gloriacook](http://www.pamperedchef.biz/gloriacook). (03/12)

**MARY KAY COSMETICS...** Learn to enhance your natural beauty with a personal facial—your home or mine. 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed! Beautiful gift baskets for all occasions. Major credit cards and debit cards accepted. Free gift with \$40 purchase. Online at [www.marykay.com/ckeyserfanick](http://www.marykay.com/ckeyserfanick) or phone **210-681-6819**. Independent Mary Kay Beauty Consultant **Christine Keyser-Fanick**, 8642 Wrexham Heights. (11/12)

**CARPENTRY & PAINTING...** Fine home-repair service, all types of painting & carpentry work. I am reliable, efficient, courteous & fair and can provide references to vouch for it. Please call **Phil Backhus** at **210-389-2280**. Thanks. (01/12)

**BEAD'M UP...** Professional pearl and beaded jewelry repair with over 18 years experience. Knotted and unknotted. Why pay the high price that jewelry stores charge? Eliminate the middle man and save money. Custom designs available. References upon request. Contact **Karen** at **523-5268**. (09/12)

**STOVER HEATING & A/C...** Bill Stover, USAF (Ret.) Residential service and Installation. 30+ yrs. Experience and Braun Station resident since 1988. Ask me about new American Standard equipment. Call me at 389-4941. TACLB014678E (9/12)

**GSK PLUMBING, INC...** Tired of paying outrageous prices for a plumber?! Call me, **Gerome Barrera @ (210) 288-1411** for an honest price. Free Estimates. Will work around your schedules. Call days or evenings. Master Plumber. License #M-22085. Or e-mail: [gbarrera11@satx.rr.com](mailto:gbarrera11@satx.rr.com). (09/12)

**RICHARD SHAW ELECTRIC...** Licensed - Insured - Bonded. Free estimates. Master Electrician, License #21217. Commercial/Residential/Service. Braun Station West references available. Call **862-2807**. (11/11)

**TUPPERWARE...** the product that stands for quality and offers a lifetime guarantee. New, contemporary designs in food storage, same great product. Earn free gifts by hosting a party or *Show and Sell* in your home. Fund raisers available. Online at [www.my2.tupperware.com/ckeyserfanick](http://www.my2.tupperware.com/ckeyserfanick) or phone **210-681-6819**. Independent Tupperware Consultant **Christine Keyser-Fanick**, 8642 Wrexham Heights. (11/12)

**REGISTERED AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE...** Call **Ms. Debbie** at **681-2518**. Braun Station West resident. (01/12)

**PET SITTING...** Responsible, 13-year-old is available for pet sitting. Has great references and loves animals! Call parents **Ross and Ilona Smith** to coordinate. **684-1130**. (05/12)

**BUTLER PAINTING AND HOME SERVICES...** Need an honest, clean, reliable painter? We are just a phone call away. Specializing in interior/exterior painting, texturing, tape & float, wallpaper removal, pressure washing and decorative painting. Please call **380-2079** for a free estimate. (05/12)

**NEIGHBORHOOD HANDYMAN...** Most all renovations, upgrades, major / minor emergencies & honey-do's, including fences, decks and pressure washing. Call **Michael** at **210-487-1288**. Free Estimates!! Braun Station West resident. (03/12)

**AMIGOS A/C & HEATING... Call Us First!** Repair calls are only \$49.00 - Estimates are free!! Call 210-393-7422. Ask for our \$89.00 Tune Up Special. Includes the service and up to 1 LB. Freon. Call us for a 2nd opinion on A/C repairs/installation. As a RUUD Dealer we give great breaks on new High Efficiency Systems. (9/12)

**PROFESSIONAL HANDYMAN (Quality Work Always!)...** Painting, remodeling, fences, decks, wood floors, mason, marble, tile, and brick. Tree trimming, landscaping, pressure washing, and gutter and hardi-plank installation. All electrical work. Free estimates... neighborhood references. Call **Neil** at **262-4098**. (11/11)

**DAN'S POOL AND SPA EQUIPMENT REPAIRS...** former Leslie's Pool and Caldera Spa Tech. Repairs to all makes of pools and spas, pumps, seals, filter and heaters. **Free estimates**. Have your system checked out now. Braun Station resident last 17 years. Friendly, Fair and Honest. Dan Crowell—**210-818-6173**—Semper Fi. (11/11)

## **BOUNTIFUL BASKETS FOOD CO-OP IN HELOTES**



Lovers of fresh fruit and vegetables: rejoice! A new co-op has begun in Helotes. Bountiful Baskets is a co-op community of people who utilize their purchasing power as a group to buy items at wholesale prices. It works like this: "baskets" can be ordered online on Mondays and Tuesdays for \$15. You then pick up your "basket" of half fruit/half veggies that Saturday morning at the Children's Lighthouse off Leslie Road between 8:00 and 8:20 A.M. Volunteers arrive early to divvy up the weekly truck delivery. You bring your own containers, wait in line, sign for your pick up, then load up your allotment, all in about five minutes! (There is a \$3 new basket charge the first time you participate.)

To participate, go to [www.bountifulbaskets.org](http://www.bountifulbaskets.org). For specific questions, you may contact the Helotes site coordinator at [melaniegagliardo@yahoo.com](mailto:melaniegagliardo@yahoo.com). Good news: this is *not* just a summer program, but continues year round!